

## TRADE BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES

"Statistical Abstract of Foreign Countries" is the title of a publication recently issued by the bureau of statistics of the department of commerce and labor. It deals with the foreign trade of the principal commercial nations, showing the growth in international commerce for as extensive a period as can be covered from the official records of the respective countries and, incidentally, the world's markets for various products and the increasing share which merchandise of the United States forms of the annual imports of those markets.

The volume in question, which is compiled from the official publications of the various countries whose trade it records, is divided into three sections: the first showing the total imports and exports of merchandise, gold, and silver of each of the principal countries during a long period of years; the second, the trade of each principal country with other countries during a ten-year period; and the third, the principal articles imported into, or exported from the various countries during the latest year available, compared with the ten years immediately preceding. While similar in some respects to the statistical abstracts of foreign countries issued by the United Kingdom, France and other leading nations, it differs from those works in that the information has been in all cases stated in the currency and units of measurement of the United States, thus affording to those interested an opportunity to readily trace the development of the trade in any important article in any given market. This work of transforming statistics originally expressed in the language, currency and units of various countries into those of the United States has involved several years of careful research and labor on the part of a corps of statistical experts in the bureau of statistics, and the result has been the issuance of a volume unique in its availability, and convenience as a reference work, not only to economists and statesmen, but to those interested in any particular article of commerce.

A remarkable development of international commerce is shown by the volume to have occurred in the last

half-century. Thus, in 50 years the foreign trade of the United States has sextupled in value, that of Austria-Hungary practically quadrupled, that of Belgium sextupled, that of France trebled, that of the United Kingdom more than trebled, that of Canada quintupled, that of Japan has increased more than 16-fold; that of Germany in the 35 years from 1872 to 1906, inclusive, has doubled.

The trade of the various nations showing the countries to which exports are sent and from which imports are drawn is especially interesting as indicating a steady growth in the share which merchandise of the United States forms of their annual consumption of foreign goods. For example, in 1896 the United States supplied 17 millions dollars worth, or 6 per cent of the imports of Austria-Hungary; in 1908, 45 million, or 9.2 per cent of the total. Of the imports into France the share of the United States was, in 1896, 603 million dollars, or 8.3 per cent of the total; in 1908, 127 million, or 11.6 percent; of Germany's imports, in 1896, 1252 million dollars, or 12.2 per cent of the total; in 1908, 205 million, or 16.7 per cent; of Great Britain's imports, in 1896, 5171 million, or 24 per cent of the total; in 1908, 604 million, or 21 per cent of the total. In South American ports merchandise from the United States forms an an increasing total, having grown, in the case of Argentina, from 11 millions to 24 million dollars; Brazil, from 12 to 21 million; Chile, from 5 to 9 millions; and Peru, from 1 to 6 million, in the period from 1896 to 1908. Asia has shown an annual increase in absorption of American products, China's imports from the United States having increased from 93 million in 1896 to 265 million dollars in 1908; those of Japan, from 133 million in 1896 to 27 million in 1909 and those of India, from 41 to 103 million dollars in the period under review. British Africa, which up to 1903 had shown a great increase in imports from the United States, has since that time materially reduced such imports, the imports from the United States into the Cape of Good Hope, for example, having risen from 8 1/2 million dollars in 1896 to 22 million in 1903, but falling to 52

million in 1908—a condition fairly representative of the fluctuations shown by other South African colonies.

An interesting and suggestive feature of the chapter devoted to the trade of the various countries by principal articles is their large importations of articles of a general class produced in the United States but which have not, as yet, assumed an important position in our export trade. Oriental countries, including India, China, Japan, the Dutch East Indies, French Indo-China, and many others, buy large quantities of cotton goods, but the share supplied by the United States falls far short of what might be expected in view of the position of this country as the world's foremost producer of cotton with a yearly manufacture of 450 million dollars' worth of cotton goods. Earthenware, chinaware and glassware are in a most universal demand, appearing among the imports of nearly every country included in the volume; yet the exports of this class of goods by the United States average less than 4 million dollars per annum. These are but a few of the many articles which might be selected, but sufficient to suggest that the export trade of the United States, now approximating 2 billion dollars annually, may by further development of certain hitherto unoccupied markets, be greatly increased.

### NEW YORK MUST HAVE FOOD FROM OUTSIDE

Statisticians Say People of Metropolis Would Starve if Trains and Boats Stopped.

NEW YORK, March 19.—That starvation will threaten the millions of people on Manhattan Island, if floods, strikes or snow blocks should ever cut off their outside food supply, is announced by statisticians who have been making a study of the subject in this city. According to the results of this investigation, New Yorkers can store within the city's limits only ration enough to last the community for eight days at most, if no further food should be forthcoming from the farms outside. While over one billion pounds of meat are found to be consumed each year by New Yorkers, together with a billion and a half of eggs, 784,359,600 quarts of milk and almost five million barrels of flour, storage room for even a week's share of such gigantic food supply is known to be scarce on this restricted island. With these startling facts in mind, the people of Gotham are today casting about to learn what possible cause could ever cut off their vital connections with the outside world.

**Bloodless Bonnets.**  
Threatening to blight the crop of Easter bonnets that in a short time must bud forth on the avenues, five thousand makers of their straw and braid foundations are today talking strike to the horror of the milliners. Unless these artificers of the basic designs of women's headgear come to terms, the creators of the overland effects will have to disappoint hundreds of thousands of fair Easter Sunday paraders. In addition to their labor trouble, the milliners are this year facing a growing protest against the trophies of bird butchery with which they have went to set off the charms of the most gentle and tender-hearted women of this town. Since the Audubon workers here have shown the horrors of this trade in the albatross and other plumes, that are torn from the bloody backs of dying mother birds, many a woman has refused to have her new church bonnet made a cause for such cruelty. Now that the milliners are able to prepare the discarded plumage of the good old barnyard fowl to ornament the best of bonnets, New Yorkers are hoping that the other relics of barbarism will at last die out here.

**Courts Clogged.**  
Never in the history of this town have the criminal courts been clogged as hopelessly as they are today, with a hundred and fifty cases blocking the calendar and a jall full of the accused pleading for a hearing. While the men of the district attorney's new staff are scurrying about with some show of expediting the long and complicated cases left by their predecessors, to be tried, the judges sit sedately, and the law's delays seem to paralyze the whole cumbersome machinery of trial. To be even accused of crime is punishable by months of imprisonment in the dreary Tombs, according to the recent results of this system here, and yet no one has yet proposed a way to procure relief from injustice. More courts must be provided for this metropolis soon, the judges agree, or the prisons will overflow with the victims of the present criminal crush.

**Pulpit Perils.**  
Calling this metropolis "the graveyard of ministers," leading laymen as well as members of the clergy are today starting an attempt to improve conditions which they declare menace the life and health of the heads of churches here. That the maddening whirl of the town is felt even in the

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When we picture justice it is as a woman with a sword. We shall have to change that when little Miss Dorothy Frocks shall be elected to the bench. The new idea will be a woman with a scroll; perhaps with a loaf and a pot of tea; at any rate, a woman with a cup of kindness. "You see," says little Miss Frocks, "I should not be a judge to condemn. I should be a judge to teach the criminal. An entire reform."

This Dorothy is 15 years old. But her strength is in her youth. Because she means to run for office she wants the ballot, and we are almost persuaded that we should let her have it. Miss Frocks confesses frankly that it was not always thus with her. Once in her ignorance and thoughtlessness she laughed at the woman who wanted to vote. Two years ago she saw the light. She is a strong suffragist now, and if her laughter ever turns to tears over those performances of suffragettes which should make goddesses weep she does not say so.

Just now her cause and her aspirations appear as very serious matters to Miss Dorothy. We trust that years to come will destroy neither her womanly charity nor her view of a busy life as something worth while. These possessions are really rather strong rivals to the ballot in world utility and importance.—New York World.

#### A Triumph of Engineering.

One of the greatest triumphs in the history of engineering is the completion of the tunnel, or series of tunnels, through the Andes, which allows direct railway travel across South America from Buenos Ayres to Valparaiso. Hitherto, winter travelers went by way of the Strait of Magellan, a rough sea voyage. The tunnel has been in process of construction for many years, and twice the work has been abandoned in despair. A New York syndicate solved the problem at last and it is announced that trains will be running early in the coming summer. There are three tunnels, with an aggregate length of eleven miles. The highest station on the line is about ten thousand five hundred feet above the sea level. The third of the tunnels is described as screw shaped, and drops twenty-seven hundred feet in a distance of twenty-seven thousand feet. The total cost of the work is about twelve million dollars.—Youth's Companion.

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